REMARKS

In paragraphs 1-6 of the Office Action dated April 19, 2006, claims 1-3 and 7-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103 as being anticipated by Toshiharu et al. or unpatentable over Toshiharu et al. in view of Kuhn. As discussed below, applicant amends the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention and distinguish it from these two references.

Applicant has attached copies of the drawings from the present application (FIGS. 1-5) and the two references (FIGS. 1-3 of Toshihara et al and FIGS. 2-3 of Kuhn), which have been color-coded in order to help in clarifying the differences and distinctions between the present claims and the references.

As shown in applicants FIGS. 1-5, the hardener layers (yellow) are separated from the resin layers (green) only by fibrous layers (blue). This is completely different from FIGS. 1-3 of Toshihara et al. where the yellow hardener layers are always separated from the green resin layers by a heat fusing film (red). The blue glass cloth (fibrous layers) are only used by Toshihara et al. to separate hardener layers from hardener layers and resin layers from resin layers. Nowhere is the glass cloth used to separate a hardener layer from a resin layer.

The red heat fusing film used by Toshihara et al. to separate the hardener and resin is a solid film with no openings. The film melts only during curing of the prepreg to provide openings where the hardener and resin mix together. This is completely different from the blue fibrous layer applicant uses to separate the hardener and resin. In order to point out this distinction, applicant amends claim 1 to require that the fibrous body has "openings therein". The support for this limitation is found in line 4, Paragraph 21 of applicant's specification.

It is a strict requirement of Toshihara et al. that the hardener and resin be separated by a solid film that has no openings. Toshiharal et al. actually teaches away from applicant's invention because it shows the use of fibrous layers only for

separating hardener from hardener and resin from resin. The separation of hardener from resin is limited only to the use of a solid film that is opened only by heating.

Kuhn provides the same basic teaching as Toshihara et al. with regards to separating the hardener from the resin using a solid film. In Kuhn, two solid films (highlighted in red) are used to separate resin-impregnated glass cloth (blue/green) from the hardener layers (yellow). Kuhn teaches rupturing the solid films mechanically in order to provide opening through which the hardener and resin are mixed. The solid film used by Kuhn to separate the hardener from the resin is mechanically ruptured by stretching only when mixing of the hardener and resin is desired to cure the material.

Neither Toshihara et al. nor Kuhn teach substituting glass cloth or any other fibrous material in place of their solid barriers that are used to separate the hardener from the resin. Both references teach away from applicant's invention where a fibrous body (with openings therein) is used to separate hardener from resin, because both references specifically require a solid film that is only opened thermally or mechanically during the curing process. Both references do show the use of fibrous layers. However, the fibrous layers are not in any way used to separate the hardener from resin.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests that this application be reexamined and that the claims, as now amended, be allowed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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